March, 1990 with Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Studies, Bombay as its Chairman.

(b) The Group in its meetings considered the recommendations of a sub-Group of experts constituted to evolve various methodologies and procedure for economic evaluation of the proposals for water transfer links prepared by National Water Development Agency (NWDA). The recommendations inter-alia suggest that to start with NWDA may evaluate the economic internal rate of return with market rates for both inputs and outputs and that the cost and benefit may be evaluated with and without project scenario to indicate economic viability of the proposals.

Water Resource Assessment made by the National Water Development Agency

363. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any water resource assessment for the entire basins of the country was made by the National Water Development Agency or by any other committee; and

(b) what is the quantum of surplus water available in all the basins and the acres of land likely to be irrigated with this surplus water?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Central Water Commission has assessed the availability of surface water resources in the country from time to time based on the intest available data.

(b) In the National Water Perspective, additional water that can be utilisted through inter-basin transfers was estimated as 22 million hectares-metres to benefit 35 million hectares of land. This National Water Development Agency has undertaken studies to firm up these figures.

Checking up of erosion by river Ganga

364. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that parts of National Highway 34 are threatened with erosion by Ganga;

(b) whether Indian Territory is being lost in Murshidabad (West Bengal) and land formation is taking place on the left bank to benefit Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the erosion?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No parts of National Highway 34 are presently threatened with erosion by Ganga;

(b) and (c) There is no permanent loss of Indian territory. However on temporary basis some land is not available for use by India due to erosion of right bank by Ganga. The situation changes from time to time and a stable situation is unlikely due to meandering nature of the river in the Murshidabad reach. Schemes costing Rs. 587.58 lakhs have been executed to prevent severe erosion near Akhriganj.

Major and medium irrigation projects in the country

365. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major and medium irrigation projects at present in the country;

(b) whether some of these projects are running behind schedule resulting in cost-escalation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?